

Ad

TUE, AUG 27, 2024 | UPDATED 11:51 AM IST



THE TIMES OF INDIA

Opinion

Times
ViewTimes
Evoke

City

India

World

Entertainment

Sports

Spirituality

Business

Envirc

NEWS / BLOGS / INDIA / A harbinger of revolution - Bihar's Lenin Babu Jagdeo Prasad

INDIA

A harbinger of revolution – Bihar's Lenin Babu Jagdeo Prasad

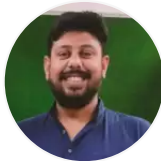
August 21, 2024, 2:46 PM IST / Rahul Ranjan in Blackslate Corner, India, TOI

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

LINKEDIN

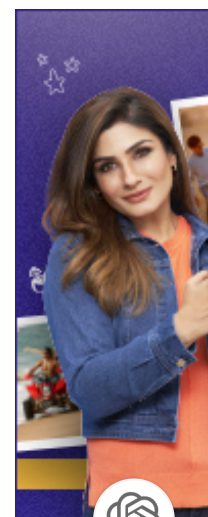
EMAIL

**Rahul Ranjan**

Rahul Ranjan, a seasoned author, delves into societal narratives spanning labour, gender, culture, and the environment. With a profound grasp of public policy, constitution, a ...

MORE

Bihar's political and social landscape has been shaped by numerous leaders, but few have left as profound an impact as Jagdeo Prasad. Often referred to as "Bihar's Lenin," Jagdeo Prasad was a pioneering force in the fight for the rights of the exploited and marginalized communities in north India. His life and work symbolize the struggle for social, economic, political, and cultural progress for the non-savarnas (lower castes). Prasad's journey from a humble background to becoming a significant



political figure reflects his indomitable spirit and commitment to justice and equality.

Born on February 2, 1922, in Kurhari, Kurtha block, Bihar, near the historically significant Bodh Gaya, Jagdeo Prasad's early life was marked by struggle and resistance. His father, Prayag Narayan Kushwaha, was a primary school teacher, and his mother, Raskali, was unlettered. Despite the financial hardships, Prasad pursued his education diligently. His formative years were characterized by frequent clashes with the entrenched caste system. The young Prasad's defiance against caste-based discrimination foreshadowed his lifelong commitment to combating social injustices.

Prasad's education journey took him to Jehanabad for high school and later to Patna University, where he completed his graduation and postgraduation. During his university years, he was influenced by Chandradev Prasad Verma, who introduced him to various political ideologies and thinkers. This period marked the beginning of Prasad's active engagement in sociopolitical activities.

Political awakening and activism

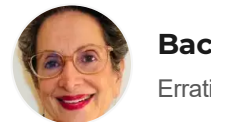
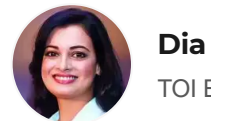
Jagdeo Prasad's entry into politics was through the Socialist Party, where he edited its organ, Janata. His writings focused on the plight of the Dalits, OBCs, and the exploited classes. In 1955, Prasad moved to Hyderabad, where he edited the English weekly Citizen and the Hindi weekly Uday. His revolutionary articles led to increased circulation of these journals, but also

BLOGS BY R

- 1 Migration &
- 2 History of I
- 3 Ideologies exploration



TOP VOICES



TOP EDITOR



brought threats from those in power, prompting his return to Patna.

2

The Kolha
Indi

3

Who is my

In the mid-1960s, the socialist movement in Bihar was thriving, but internal ideological differences existed. Prasad aligned with Ram Manohar Lohia's faction, which aimed to indigenize socialist ideology for broader appeal. He played a crucial role in forming the first non-Congress government in Bihar in 1967 but later parted ways with Lohia due to policy disagreements.

Jagdev Babu was profoundly influenced by John Ruskin's ideas on social economy, believing that the concentration of resources in the hands of a few leads to injustice. Additionally, he was inspired by Jyoti Rao Phule's Satya Shodhak Samaj, attributing educational and employment backwardness to the unequal distribution of resources. Jagdev Babu held that achieving the goals set by the Constitution's framers required unity in diversity, democracy, and social revolution. He dedicated himself to realizing the dreams of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Both Periyar in Tamil Nadu and Jagdev Babu in Bihar challenged caste dominance and inspired the oppressed to fight for their rights. In this struggle, Jagdev Babu drew inspiration from the Civil Rights Movement led by his contemporary, Martin Luther King Jr., who was assassinated during the Poor People's Campaign.

Formation of Shoshit Samaj Dal

Recognizing the need for a socio-cultural revolution to complement political changes,



Prasad founded the Shoshit Dal on August 25, 1967. He joined the Arjak Sangh, established by Ramswaroop Verma, advocating for humanism against Brahmanism. The Arjak Sangh's principles aimed to dismantle the caste hierarchy, a cause Prasad passionately supported.

Prasad's slogans and speeches resonated with the masses, emphasizing the need for equality and justice. On August 7, 1972, the Shoshit Dal merged with Ramswaroop Verma's Samaj Dal, forming the Shoshit Samaj Dal. As the national general secretary, Prasad toured extensively, rallying support for his cause.

Expanding influence beyond Bihar

Prasad's vision was not confined to Bihar. His rhetoric and actions resonated across the Hindi-speaking states, inspiring movements and collaborations aimed at creating a unified front of the oppressed. Addressing the annual convention of Uttar Pradesh's Rashtriya Shoshit Sangh on June 14, 1969, Prasad issued a clarion call against upper-caste imperialism, drawing parallels with the DMK's success in Tamil Nadu. He declared that the Shoshit Dal, along with other regional parties like the Rashtriya Shoshit Sangh and the DMK, aimed to dismantle upper-caste dominance across India.

Prasad's political journey was marked by his commitment to the rights of the oppressed. His efforts to broaden the students' movement against the authoritarian Congress government in Bihar exemplified his vision of inclusive



activism. On September 5, 1974, during a peaceful march in Kurtha, the police opened fire, and Prasad was fatally shot. Despite his injury, he was taken to the police station instead of a hospital, leading to his untimely death. His body was brought to Patna, where thousands gathered to pay their last respects, highlighting his influence and the loss felt by the community.

Legacy and Impact

Jagdeo Prasad's contributions to Indian politics and society extend beyond his lifetime. He was instrumental in setting up the Mandal Commission, which recommended reservations for OBCs in government jobs and educational institutions, a landmark step towards social justice. His role in founding the Shoshit Samaj Dal and later the Bahujan Samaj Party laid the groundwork for the political empowerment of marginalized communities.

Prasad's writings and speeches, though not widely preserved, continue to inspire. The compilation of his works by Dr. Rajendra Prasad Singh and Shashikala in Jagdev Prasad Vangmay provides valuable insights into his revolutionary thoughts and intellectual prowess.

Jagdeo Prasad's legacy is one of audacity and visionary leadership. He dared to dream of a political landscape free from upper-caste domination and worked tirelessly to realize that dream. His efforts laid the groundwork for subsequent movements and parties that continue to fight for social justice and equality in India. Prasad's life and work remain a beacon



of inspiration for those committed to the cause of the oppressed, reminding us that true change often requires courage, persistence, and an unwavering belief in the power of collective action.

Despite his significant contributions to the freedom struggle and advocacy for the rights of marginalized communities in India, Jagdeo Prasad is not prominently featured in mainstream historical narratives. Known as “Bihar’s Lenin,” his relentless fight for social, economic, and political equality marked him as a revolutionary figure. Prasad’s foundational role in the formation of the Shoshit Samaj Dal and his influence in establishing the Mandal Commission were pivotal for the empowerment of lower castes. However, the lack of extensive historical coverage may stem from biases in historiography, often sidelining regional and caste-based movements in favor of more widely recognized national figures.

[FACEBOOK](#)[TWITTER](#)[LINKEDIN](#)[EMAIL](#)

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed above are the author's own.

END OF ARTICLE

POPULAR CATEGORIES

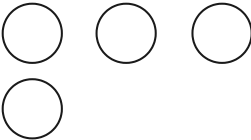
- About us
- Create Your Own Ad
- Terms of Use and Grievance Redressal Policy
- Privacy policy
- Advertise with us
- RSS
- Newsletter
- Feedback
- ePaper
- Sitemap
- Archives

- Headlines
- Sports News
- Business News
- India News
- World News
- Bollywood News
- Health+ Tips
- Indian TV Shows
- Celebrity Photos
- Technology News

TOP TRENDS

- Kolkata Doctor Rape Case
- Sanjay Roy
- Elon Musk
- Fastest Growing Economies in the World
- Telegram CEO Pavel Durov
- SSC CGL 2024 Admit Card
- Gautam Gambhir
- Unified Pension
- Scheme
- UP Police Admit Card
- Pakistan
- Gunmen Attack
- KL Rahul
- Sandip Ghosh
- Moshin Naqvi
- Kannada Actor Darshan
- Shan Masood
- Live Cricket Score

FOLLOW US ON



OTHER TIMES GROUP NEWS SITES

- The Economic Times
- Hindi Economic Times
- Navbharat Times
- Maharashtra Times
- Vijaya Karnataka
- Telugu Samayam
- Tamil Samayam
- Malayalam Samayam
- I am Gujarat
- Times Now
- Times Now
- Navbharat
- TimesPoints



Indiatimes	Times Food
Brand	Miss Kyra
Capital	Mumbai
Education	Mirror
Times	

LIVING AND ENTERTAINMENT

Viral News	Filmfare
Viral Videos	TV
Femina	Lifestyle
ETimes	Longwalks
Grazia	App
Zoom	Newspaper
Travel	Subscription
Destinations	Food News
Bombay	Times Prime
Times	Whats Hot
Cricbuzz.com	

HOT ON THE WEB

Justin Bieber	Aamir Khan
Stree 2	Personality
Collection	Test
Optical	Chia Seeds
Illusion	Nasa
Sridevi	Zakir Hussain
Walking	
Benefits	

TRENDING TOPICS

Health Tips	New Seven
Richest	Wonders of
Cricketer	the World
Soniya	Darshan
Malhar	Insha Ghaii
Geetha	Kalra Death
Vijayan	News
Natasa	Maharashtra
Stankovic	Bandh
Thangalaan	Arshad
Collection	Warsis
Optical	Sunita
Illusion	Williams
Bijili Ramesh	Krishna
	Janmashtami



Date	Bottles
Taapsee	Wordle
Pannu	Answer
Telegram	Best Semi
Ceo Pavel	Automatic
Durov	Washing
Top Stainless	Machines
Steel Sipper	

SERVICES

CouponDunia	Times Mobile
TechGig	Gadgets
TimesJobs	Careers
Bollywood	Colombia
News	

Copyright © 2024 Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved. For reprint rights: Times Syndication Service

